GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:23
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2003
WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR RURAL POVERTY
RAJO SINGH

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposals from State Governments regardingwatershed development project for poverty alleviation in the rural areas through land related activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise;

(c) the number of projects sanctioned/cleared and pending with the Union Government as on date and the funds allocated State-wise and district-wise; and

(d) the time by which they are likely to be cleared?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL):

(a) to (d) The Department of Land Resources is implementing three Programmes, namely,Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) fc development/treatment of wastelands/degraded lands in accordance with the Guidelines for Watershed Development. The project proposals under DPAP/DDP are not invited from the State Governments but are sanctioned by theDepartment of Land Resources in the identified Development Blocks while projects under iWDP are invited from the State Governments. Under IWDP since 1999-2000. project proposals are prioritized in consultation with the State Governments on year to year basis forsanction during a financial year. The pending project proposals which are not sanctioned in a financial year are also considered for prioritisation during the next financial year in consultation with the State government. The pending project proposals which do not find a place in the priority list, are then returned to the State Governments. The number ofprioritized project proposals received and sanctioned under !WDP during the current financial year i.e. 2002-03 are given ,n the statement enclosed. Under IWDP funds are not allocatedstate-wise or district-wise.New projects are generally sanctioned in a year keeping in view the funds available for the programme, after meeting the liability for the ongoing projects, progress made in ongoing projects, spread of treatable wastelands in the State implementation capacity etc. and conformity of project proposals with the Guidelines for Watershed Development. Since sanction of project proposals depends on many factors such as budget available, conformity of project proposals with the Guidelines, progress in the ongoing projects etc. no firm time limit can be indicated. However, no State-wise allocation is made since the Programme is demand-driven.Now, sanctioning procedure of IWDP, DPAP and DDP is being rationalized and made uniform under `Hariyali`Guidelines.